



September 20, 2026
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
8:30 a.m.

Salt
&
Light

Matthew 5:13

Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover
Pastor Emeritus David Nygard
Special Guests Pastor David Glesne, Pastor John Nelson, Pastor Lloyd Evans
Organist & Pianist Rose Ann Sochan
Sanctuary Choir Director Herb Alexander
Worship Assistants Herb Alexander, Paul Allen, Jane Costello

40 Houbolt Rd.
Joliet, IL 60431

(815) 741-4488
www.mlcjoliet.org

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church

September 20, 2026 - 8:30 a.m.

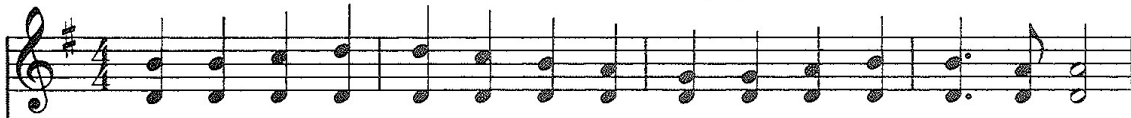
Enter Reverently, Worship Joyfully, Live Faithfully

PRELUDE

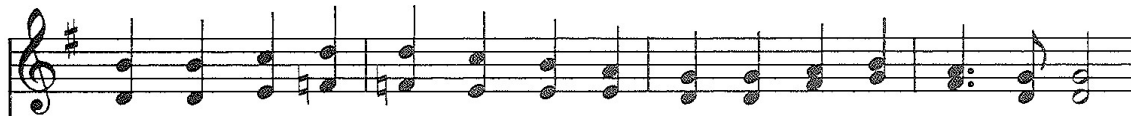
Rose Ann Sochan

OPENING HYMN

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee," #1 v. 1-4



1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2. All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,
3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,
4. Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus Which the morn - ing stars be - gan;



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean depth of hap - py rest!
Fa - ther love is reign - ing o'er us, Broth - er love binds man to man.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the dark of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther Christ, our Broth - er— All who live in love are Thine;
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Call us to re - joice in Thee.
Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the joy di - vine.
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life. A - men.

KINGDOM LITANY BASED ON PSALM 145

Leader: All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
All: and all your saints shall bless you!
Leader: They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom
All: and tell of your power,
Leader: to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds,
All: and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
Leader: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
All: and your dominion endures throughout all generations.
Leader: We worship You Lord in the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SANCTUARY CHOIR ANTHEM

"Grace," arr. Mark Hayes,
led by Herb Alexander

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Shine, Jesus, Shine," #671 v. 1-2, ELW

Refrain

Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;
blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;
send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!
1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the
2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our fac - es dis -
dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,
play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,
set us free by the truth you now bring us.
mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.
Refrain
Shine on me, shine on me:
Shine on me, shine on me:

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness," #43 v. 1-3



1. Great is Thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther, There is no
 2. Sum-mer and win-ter, and spring-time and har-vest, Sun, moon and
 3. Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, Thy own dear

shad-ow of turn-ing with Thee; Thou chang-est not, Thy com-
 nas in their cours-es a-bove Join with all na-ture in
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; Strength for to-day and bright

pas-sions they fail not; As Thou hast been Thou for-ev-er wilt be.
 man-i-fold wit-ness To Thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy and love.
 hope for to-mor-row, Bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Refrain

Great is Thy faith-ful-ness! Great is Thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by
 morn-ing new mer-cies I see; All I have need-ed Thy
 hand hath pro-vid-ed— Great is Thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

A MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Leader: Holy and Gracious God,

All: I confess that I have sinned against you this day and every day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me, that I may rest in peace and live each day for You.

Leader: By the mercy of God we are united with Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and rise every morning to serve Him. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Leslie McFarland

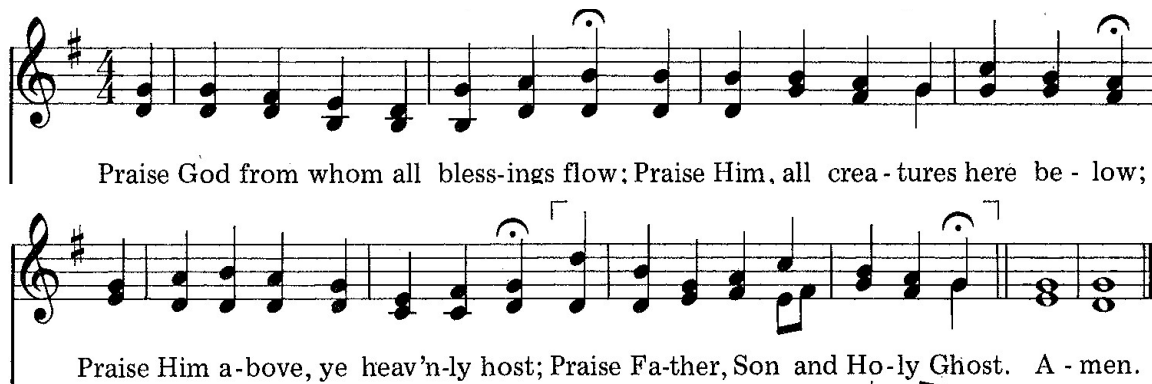
OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Rose Ann Sochan

RESPONSE

Doxology #625



Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Him, all crea-tures here be-low;

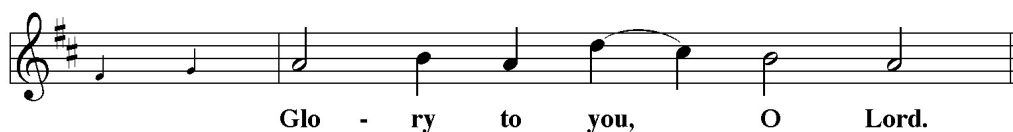
Praise Him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; Praise Fa-ther, Son and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.

FIRST LESSON, Exodus 30:34-35 (NIV)

Reader: Angie Mitchka

³⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, "Take fragrant spices—gum resin, onycha and galbanum—and pure frankincense, all in equal amounts, ³⁵and make a fragrant blend of incense, the work of a perfumer. It is to be salted and pure and sacred.

SECOND LESSON, Matthew 5:13-16 (NIV)

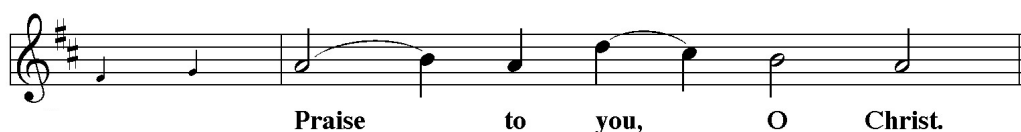


Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

¹³"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.



Praise to you, O Christ.

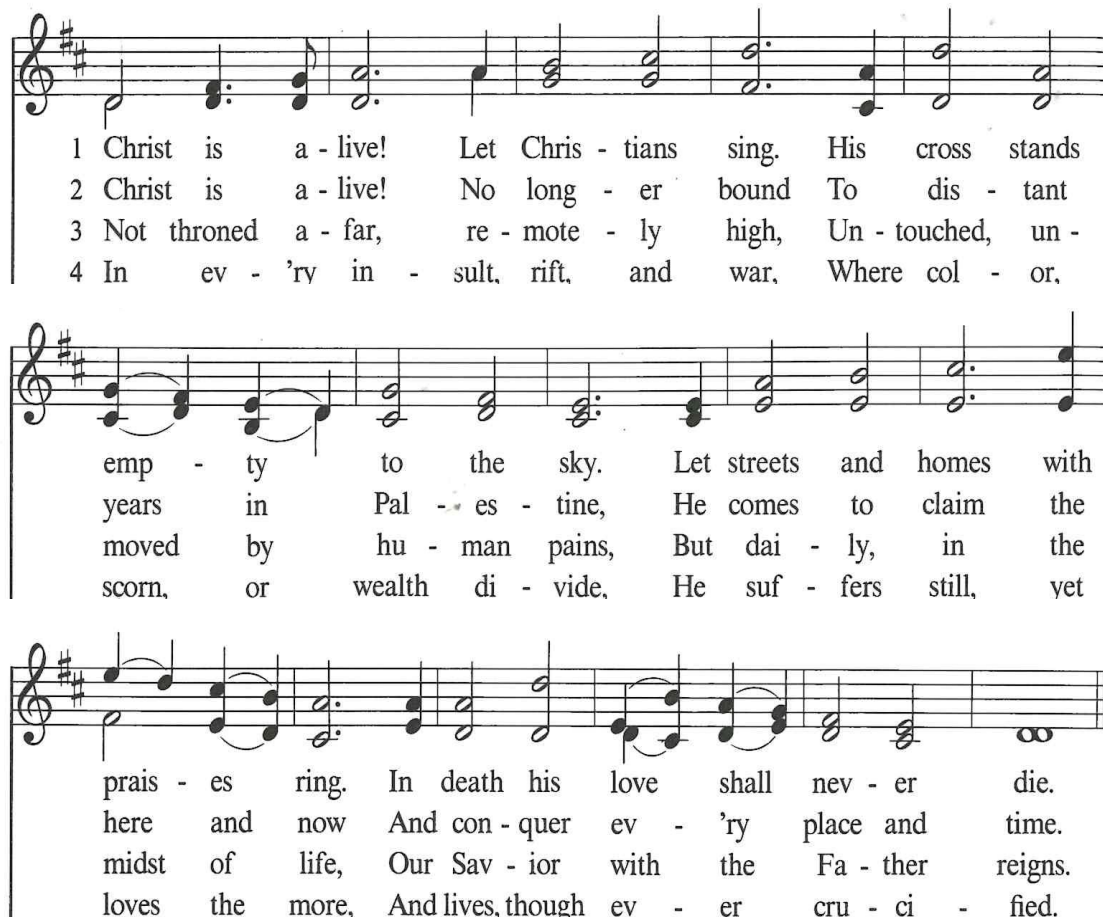
MESSAGE

"The Church's Calling in the Modern World"

Pastor Dave Glesne

HYMN

"Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing," #363 v. 1-4, *LBW*



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. His cross stands
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound To dis - tant
3 Not throned a - far, re - mote - ly high, Un - touched, un -
4 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, Where col - or,
emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, He comes to claim the
moved by hu - man pains, But dai - ly, in the
scorn, or wealth di - vide, He suf - fers still, yet
prais - es ring. In death his love shall nev - er die.
here and now And con - quer ev - 'ry place and time.
midst of life, Our Sav - ior with the Fa - ther reigns.
loves the more, And lives, though ev - er cru - ci - fied.

WORDS OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Pastor Lloyd Evans

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor John Nelson

Servers: Paul Allen, Jane Costello, Lynn Tapella

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Herb Alexander, soloist

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

HYMN

"Lamb of God"



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;

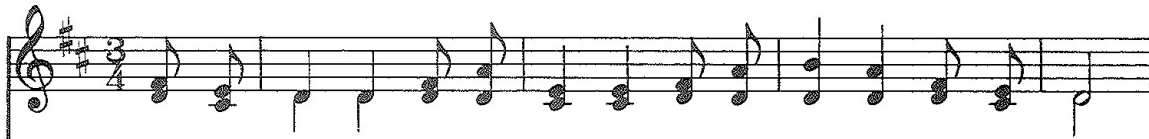


grant us peace, grant us peace.



COMMUNION HYMNS

"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing," #2



1. Come, Thou Fount of ev - ery bless - ing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
2. Hith - er - to Thy love has blest me; Thou hast bro't me to this place;
3. O to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con - strained to be!



Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, Call for songs of loud - est praise.
And I know Thy hand will bring me Safe - ly home by Thy good grace.
Let Thy good - ness, like a fet - ter, Bind my wan - dering heart to Thee:



Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, Sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove;
Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger, Wan - dering from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love;



Praise His name—I'm fixed up-on it— Name of God's re - deem - ing love.
He, to res - cue me from dan - ger, Bought me with His precious blood.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it; Seal it for Thy courts a - bove. A - men.

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah," #51



- 1. Guide me, O Thou great Je - ho - vah, Pil - grim through this bar - ren
- 2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, Whence the heal - ing stream doth
3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious fears sub -



land; I am weak, but Thou art might - y; Hold me with Thy
flow; Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar Lead me all my
side; Bear me thro' the swell - ing cur - rent, Land me safe on



pow'r-ful hand; Bread of heav - en, Bread of heav - en, Feed me
jour - ney through; Strong De-liv - erer, strong De-liv - erer, Be Thou
Ca - naan's side; Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es I will



till I want no more, Feed me till I want no more.
still my strength and shield, Be Thou still my strength and shield.
ev - er give to Thee, I will ev - er give to Thee. A - men.

COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Thank you Father for the gift of salvation. Thank you Lord Jesus for this holy meal and the sacrifice of Your life. Thank you Holy Spirit for awakening faith within our hearts. We hear your voice in this meal and celebrate Your holy presence. Melt us, mold us, fill us, use us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor Dave Nygard

CLOSING HYMN

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past," #52 v. 1-3



- 1. O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
- 2. Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
- 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, Or earth re - ceived her frame,
- 4. A thou-sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone;
- 5. Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, Bears all its sons a - way;
- 6. O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home!
Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.
From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.
Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.
They fly, for - got - ten, as a dream Dies at the op - 'ning day.
Be Thou our guard while life shall last, And our e - ter - nal home. A - men.

*God will never lead you to a place
where His grace cannot keep you.*

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MESSIAH'S 125th ANNIVERSARY

We hope you were able to attend our celebration
banquet last night!

**THE CELEBRATION CONTINUES THIS MORNING
BETWEEN SERVICES WITH A RECEPTION IN THE FLC!**

ANNIVERSARY QUILT DEDICATION

This quilt is dedicated to the members and friends of Messiah Lutheran Church. We thank all the Norwegian immigrants who had the foresight and wisdom to create our church and establish the principals we still believe in today.

Thank you and bless all their descendants and the families that are a part of Messiah today - a 125 years later. The 140 squares in this quilt remind us that you are all a part of our past, our present and our future. May God bless us all and give us the wisdom necessary to carry the vision of Messiah Lutheran Church into the future. And let us remember that God will never lead you to a place where his Grace cannot keep You. Amen.



SANCTUARY CHOIR

Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7:15-8:45 p.m.,
with performances every Sunday during the 8:30 service.
If you'd like to join in, reach out to Herb Alexander.
or call the church office.

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

ADULT "INSIGHT" BIBLE STUDY

Our Sunday morning Bible Study for adults is at 9:40 in Fellowship Hall. Our current series is entitled, "The Character of God."

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP TIME



Be sure to join us for coffee & good company on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall! Coffee will be available beginning at 8:30 a.m. and will continue until after the later service gets out. If you are an 8:30 attendee - stay late! If Family Praise & Worship is your service - come early! Make new friends! If you'd like to help with Sunday morning coffee, please reach out to Joyce Pawlowski at 630-890-1203.

CONNECT WITH MESSIAH

You can use this QR code to let us know you're new, tell us that you're interested in next steps at MLC, submit prayer requests, fill out a Connect Card, and give online.

Scan here to connect with MLC:



Online Giving - There are two convenient ways to do it:

- 1) On our website at <https://www.mlcjoliet.org/give>.
- 2) Through the Church Center app on your phone or tablet, or scan the QR code above.

FAITH & BODY



Lace up your shoes and enjoy a walk in the Family Life Center, weekly on Thursdays (Sept-May) from 9-10 a.m. Everyone walks at their own pace and it's a great time for fellowship!

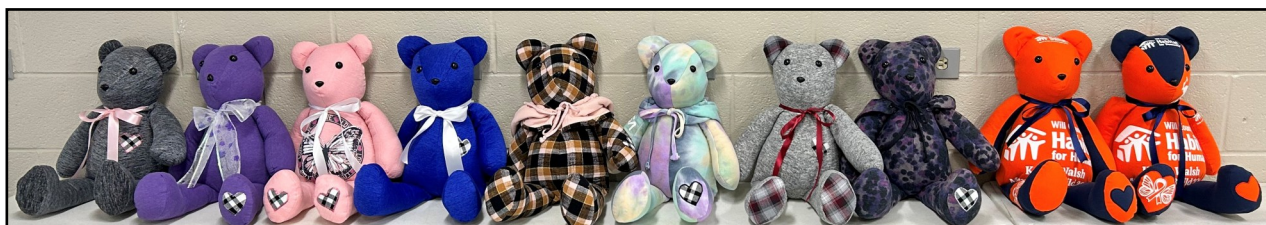
GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Please join Messiah's Grief Support Group on the **first Thursday every month** (Sept-May) at 1 p.m. in Room 101. This group offers caring and confidential space for those currently walking through loss or those who have suffered loss in the past. You are not alone - We are here to support one another. Questions may be directed to Pat Burke or Judy Fowler.

*Grief
Support
Group*

MEMORY BEARS

Messiah's Memory Bears Group normally meets the 4th Tuesday of every month from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Our next meeting is **September 22**. Machine sewists are needed! Reach out to Cindi Souza at regency118@icloud.com or 815-931-8478 for more info.



OWLS (Older, Wiser, Loving Seniors)

OWLS meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month at noon, September-May. We enjoy a light lunch together, play trivia, and usually feature a guest speaker or entertainment!



A variety of soups (and beverages) will be provided for October's luncheon as we celebrate "Autumn Fest," and we'll feature a presentation by the Joliet Historical Museum. We ask that everyone **sign up in the Narthex** so we have a headcount, and to let us know if you will bring finger food, appetizer, salad or dessert to share.

PRAYER CHAIN

Messiah uses an email-based Prayer Chain made up of people willing to pray for our members, community, and nation in times of crisis. Prayers are shared amongst the group via email and are kept confidential as much as possible. Reach out to Cindi Souza at regency118@icloud.com or 815-931-8478 for more info.

PRAYER TEAM

Our in-person Prayer Team meets Thursday mornings in the Fireside Room from 10:15- 11:15 to pray together over our prayer request list. For more info, reach out to Cindi Souza at regency118@icloud.com or 815-931-8478, or Beth Hohisel at bhohisel@hotmail.com.

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Items for the bulletin are due by the end of the day each Tuesday, and newsletter material is due the 20th of each month.

QUILTERS

Messiah Quilters meet the 3rd Tuesday each month from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The next quilting day is October 20. We have a lot of quilts ready to complete and if you can tie a knot, you can help us out! We even have jobs you can do sitting down. If you are unable to join us and would like to sew at home, we have kits available and can show you how easy it is to sew a quilt top together.

We are in need of clean sheets of, any size, flat or fitted (no stains or holes) to be used as backs for our quilts. There is a collection basket in the Narthex. Contact Kathy Mueller at 815-953-6601 or scpbklane@aol.com for more information or any questions you may have. Hope to see you on **October 20!**

STAY-N-PLAY - Resumes September 22!

Our FREE weekly open gym play group for kids five and under (along with their caretaker) meets in the Family Life Center every Tuesday morning (Sept-May) from 10-11:30. Bring the littles for play time! Adults enjoy coffee on us! Please like our Facebook page ([MLC Stay-N-Play Playgroup](#)) for additional information, and share with your friends and neighbors!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Join us for Women's Bible Study on Wednesday afternoons at 1 in the Fireside Room!



Our current series, "God Won't Leave You There: Joseph's Story," is an incredible testimony of jaw-dropping faith and patient perseverance in the face of devastating trials that will leave you in awe at what God can do in and through one person. It's a powerful reminder that wherever you find yourself, God is at work putting the pieces of your life together to bring about His sovereign plan.

MESSIAH KIDS (pre-K to 5th grades)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Our Children's Choir will perform on the fourth Sunday of most months during the late service. For more info please reach out to Season Lawler.

MESSIAH KIDS WEDNESDAYS (MKW)

MKW meets Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. in the upper level Kidz Club! Join us for family dinner beforehand, starting at 5 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We meet upstairs in the Kidz Club during Education Hour at 9:40 a.m.

For more info on ministries for kids pre-K through 5th grade, email Leslie McFarland, Children's Min. Director, at childrensmin@mlcjoliet.org or Megan Kuhn, Christian Ed. Director, at christianed@mlcjoliet.org.

MESSIAH STUDENT MINISTRIES (6th to 12th grades)

BIBLE STUDY (SUNDAY MORNINGS)

Bible Study for high schoolers is in the Fireside Room continues year-round.

FRIENDS & MENTORS (FAM) FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS

Join us for mid-week Bible Study, connect with peers, play games, sing praise and more! FAM meets on Wednesday evenings (Sept-April) from 6-8. Join us for family dinner beforehand, starting at 5 p.m.

HEAD 2 HEART (H2H)

Our H2H Confirmation Program for 6th-8th graders runs on Wednesdays evenings (Sept-April) from 6-8. Join us for family dinner beforehand, starting at 5 p.m.

For more info on ministries for students 6th through 12th grade, email Kersten Stier, Youth Director, at stumin@mlcjoliet.org.



DAILY DEVOTIONAL PODCAST “WORD PLAY!”

God has a Word for you!

Hosted by Pastor Kurt Hoover and Nikolai Stier,
we delve into the Scripture readings for the coming week
by focusing on one word in the passage.

Look for a new episode each weekday as we exchange insights
into the word of God ...along with some nerdy banter.

Find us on Spotify here:



Made-to-Order Messiah Apparel & Accessories!



Coffee Mugs, Lanyards & MORE!

**You can check out physical
samples in the Narthex.
Scan here to browse
and place your order!**



THE KINGDOM LIFE

FALL 2026 SERMON SERIES



As a Christian you live
in a unique Kingdom
sustained by the words of
your church family.



How has your family been
changed by the church?



How will your family change
the world?



Jesus united Heaven and Earth.
You are already in...

THE KINGDOM LIFE.

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

*Holy Communion is offered weekly
during both services.*

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

9:40 a.m. Education Hour for all ages

- Sunday School for K-8th!
- High School Bible Study (year-round)!
- "Insight" Bible Study for adults!

10:45 a.m. Family Praise & Worship

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are provided by Judy Fowler in loving memory of Helen Minnick.

If you would like to sponsor Altar flowers, please sign up in the Narthex or call the office at 815-741-4488. Arrangements are \$25 each.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Sunday, September 20

8:30 a.m. Celebration Worship (traditional)
9:30 a.m. 125th Anniversary Reception, FLC
10:45 a.m. Celebration Worship
(contemporary)
1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

Monday, September 21 n/a

Tuesday, September 22 9 a.m. Memory Bears 10 a.m. Stay-n-Play

Wednesday, September 23 1 p.m. Women's Bible Study 5 p.m. Family Dinner 6 p.m. FAM, H2H, MKW

Thursday, September 24 9 a.m. Faith & Body 10:15 a.m. Prayer Group 12 p.m. Staff Meeting 7:15 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Friday, September 25 n/a

Saturday, September 26 9 a.m. Worship Team Rehearsal

Sunday, September 27 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship 9:40 a.m. Education Hour for All Ages 10:45 a.m. Family Praise & Worship 1 p.m. Cristo Rey Worship

ATTENDANCE

LAST WEEK:

8:30: 88
10:45: 56
Online: 26
K-5th:
6th-8th:
HS: 3
Ignite: 1
Insight: 32

2026 GIVING

Operating Budget: \$694,359
YTD Operating Budget: \$494,952
YTD Giving Received: \$388,952
Needed Each Week: \$13,353
Received Last Week: \$8,797

STEWARDSHIP VERSE **OF THE WEEK**

2 Corinthians 2:14

But thanks be to God, who in Christ
always leads us in triumphal
procession, and through us spreads
the fragrance of the knowledge of
him everywhere.

Messiah office hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.,
otherwise by appointment. Please call (815) 741-4488.

